

Sanskrit as well—Dr. Schildgen has written five critically acclaimed books and edited four others, as well as authoring some three dozen scholarly articles and more than a dozen invited book or article reviews. An internationally respected authority on Dante, Chaucer and the gospel of Mark, especially in the context of Islam and Judaism, she has lectured throughout the United States, in India, the Middle East and Europe, and received numerous fellowships, grants and awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities and other prestigious organizations.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time for us to acknowledge and thank Dr. Schildgen for her years of exemplary work as a scholar and educator, and congratulate her on receiving this well deserved award. Her commitment to inspiring and educating students has been unwavering, and she deserves our collective recognition and thanks.

#### TRIBUTE TO KENNETH E. STREET

#### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Committeeman Kenneth E. Street. On May 13, 2008, Mr. Street will be celebrated for his contributions as a member of the Hainesport Township Committee as he retires after more than forty years of faithful service to the citizens of South Jersey.

Kenneth has dedicated his life to serving the residents of Hainesport Township. First elected to the township committee in 1950, Kenneth was then appointed mayor in 1953. He served in that position for an impressive twenty-one years. During his time as an elected official, his contributions helped to shape the township into what it is today. Most notably, he worked on developing the township's zoning and property maintenance, as well as the master plan.

In addition to his responsibilities within Hainesport, Kenneth became involved in the League of Municipalities, a statewide organization dedicated to the cooperation of neighboring communities. He served as the league's president, along with various other positions, and remains active in the group today.

Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for his leadership, commitment, and service as Kenneth celebrates his retirement.

#### ONE YEAR AFTER PASSAGE OF H. RES. 376

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the anniversary of the passage of H. Res. 376, a resolution recognizing the work of our Nation's classified school employees and their continuing contributions to education and to the students of our Nation.

By passing H. Res. 376, the House recognized the National Classified School Employee

of the Year and urged the Department of Education, all States, State education agencies, local education agencies, community colleges, and members of the public to join in this observance. H. Res. 376 congratulated all classified school employees across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring student achievement, student safety, and well-being.

I look forward to working with the National Association of Classified School Employees and other education groups to continue to honor the important work of school classified employees.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, on May 1, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll No. 234, H.R. 493, The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### CONGRATULATING CHARTER SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the faculty and staff employed in America's charter schools are working hard to educate their students and give them the tools needed to succeed, I respect their efforts, as well as the overall goal of charter schools to pursue innovative approaches to education that will allow children throughout our Nation to reach their potential. However, in an era when the funding shortfalls under No Child Left Behind have created a burdensome unfunded mandate on public schools and property taxpayers, I am extremely concerned about any diversion of funds, to charter schools or otherwise, from public schools across the country that are already struggling to maintain a diverse curriculum and serve their students. I voted present on H. Res. 1168 in order to make sure that this concern was acknowledged.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on May 5, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 240; rollcall No. 241; rollcall No. 242; rollcall No. 243; rollcall No. 244.

#### WORLD AIDS ORPHANS DAY

#### HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in Congress as well as the entire international community in recognizing World AIDS Orphans Day. This is a critically important day because we are reminded of our collective responsibility to address the needs of the world's most vulnerable population—millions of orphans and vulnerable children who need desperately need our support, care, attention and resources.

According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, highly vulnerable children include those who receive inadequate adult support because of abandonment, economic distress, or chronic illness; have HIV/AIDS or are suspected of having HIV; are directly affected by armed conflict; live outside of family care; or in some other way have suffered from a collapse of traditional social safety nets in their communities. Disease, conflict, violence, natural disaster, and severe economic strife leave millions of the world's youngest people orphaned or otherwise vulnerable. Globally, an estimated 132 million children in the developing world have lost one or both parents, while an additional, larger number of children are highly vulnerable, facing serious risks to their survival and wellbeing. According to UNAIDS, by 2010, 20–25 million children could be orphaned by HIV/AIDS alone.

These children face a number of challenges, including finding money for school fees, food, clothing, and access to basic healthcare. Their desperate plight makes them more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, ultimately making them more susceptible to contracting HIV. To that end, Congress along with the international community and non-governmental organizations must be prepared to assist those communities where these orphans live and receive most of their assistance. Today less than 10 percent of orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) receive any kind of international support—the majority of the support they receive comes from their own communities. I support the sentiments of such organizations as Global Action for Children and other leading NGO's who believe that an effective response to the challenges facing these children must be to strengthen the capacity of families and communities to continue to provide care, protection, and assistance to them in, at a minimum, meeting their basic needs.

According to UNAIDS, an \$800 million U.S. investment in 2009 is needed to provide universal HIV treatment, care, support and prevention services by 2015 to 19 million orphans and vulnerable children. Under the United States leadership against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003, 10 percent of all resources devoted to HIV/AIDS have been designated for programs to meet the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. While the U.S. contribution over the past several years has been significant, it will only be successful if we continue to provide the necessary assistance and renew our commitment to pass the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) reauthorization bill.

It is clear that Congress must do its part to meet America's international commitment to